

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ISLAMABAD 3331 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA KABUL
KARACHI LAHORE, APRIL 6TH:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 3331

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJ: NARCOTICS

1. IN APRIL INDEPENDENT DAWN ANIS MIRZA ENTITLED HER
REGULAR FEATURE ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS QTE POPPY
CULTIVATION TO MATCH OIL RICHES. UNQTE. WHILE DISCUSSING OTHER
ISSUES THAT AROSE ON FLOOR, MIRZA GAVE SPECIAL PLAY
TO REMARKS IN ASSEMBLY TEAROOM OF TWO OPPOSITION NAP
MEMBERS QTE BUSY PROPAGATING POPPY CULTIVATION. UNQTE.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF RELEVANT PORTIONS OF ARTICLE: QTE
NAP'S MR. M. GHULAM FAROOQUE AND MRS. JENNIFER MUSA
CHATTED WITH NEWSMEN ON THE ECONOMIC RETURNS OF POPPY
CULTIVATION. IT WAS NOW NARCOTICS BOARD CHAIRMAN ORAKZAI'S
TURN TO GET SOME BUFFETING. MR. FAROOQUE SAID,
INT QTE WE SHOULD REMOVE ALL RESTRICTIONS ON POPPY CULTIVATION.
IT WOULD GUARANTTEE US 100 CRORE (\$100 MILLION) IN FOREIGN
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EXCHANGE. TURKEY, WHICH IS MORE FRIENDLY WITH THE U.S.

THAN PAKISTAN, HAS LIFTED THE RESTRICTIONS. MR. ORAKZAI THINKS HE HAS BEEN GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. END INT QTE MRS. JENNIFER MUSA JOINING IN REMARKED: INT QTE U.S. AID TO TURKEY CANNOT MATCH THEIR EARNINGS FROM POPPY. IT IS THE EASIEST THING TO GROW. END INT QTE MR. GHULAM FAROOQUE SAID THAT MOST OF THE POPPY CULTIVATION WAS BEING DONE IN THE TRIBAL AREAS. ITS PROCESSING WAS CONDUCTED IN LANDI KOTAL. LAUGHING, THE IMMACULATE GHULAM FAROOQUE SAID, INT QTE MAIN TEHEKA LAY NE KEY LIYA TAYAR HUN. (POST TRANSLATION: I AM READY TO MAKE A CONTRACT.) WE WILL JOIN THE OIL-RICH ARAB COUNTRIES. CLOSE QTES

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MRS. MIRZA, WHO IS WELL KNOWN TO EMBASSY, STATED THAT REMARKS OCCURRED IN PRESENCE OF SEVERAL OTHER PRESS CORRESPONDENTS AND BY-STANDERS. APPARENTLY NO OTHER PAPERS HAVE PICKED UP STORY THUS FAR, HOWEVER. MIRZA BELIEVES FAROOQUE, WHOSE CONSTITUENCY IS IN PESHAWAR DISTRICT, INTENDS TO PRESS FOR AN ADJOURNMENT MOTION AND FULL-SCALE DEBATE OF ISSUE IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. SHE WAS UNSURE ABOUT TIMING OR WHETHER SUCH MOTION WOULD BE ALLOWED, BUT OFFERED TO REPORT BACK TO EMBOFF. ASSEMBLY IS NOW IN RECESS UNTIL APRIL 9.

4. COMMENT. FAROOQUE'S INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE MAY RELATE TO ONE OR BOTH OF FOLLOWING INCIDENTS IN HIS CONSTITUENCY DURING PRESENT GROWING SEASON: (A) ACCORDING TO PNCB OFFICER, DECISION TO ALLOCATE FEWER LICENSES TO POPPY GROWERS IN PESHAWAR DISTRICT THIS YEAR THAN LAST GENERATED PROTEST IN DECEMBER BY SOME CULTIVATORS IN AREA (SEE ISLAMABAD A-12); (B) PAK TIMES APRIL 4 REPORTED THAT 35 PERSONS HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN PESHAWAR FOR ILLEGAL GROWING OF OPIUM AND THAT POLICE HAD LAUNCHED DRIVE TO DISCOURAGE ILLEGAL CULTIVATION.

5. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD DISALLOW ADJOURNMENT MOTION ON POPPY CULTIVATION BECAUSE OF USG SENSITIVITIES ON SUBJECT BUT CONSIDER THAT TEAROOM CONVERSATION DOES REFLECT ATTITUDES OF GROWERS AND POLITICIANS IN NWFP. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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